## THE REVEREND EZEKIEL CRUMP

By FRANK R. STOCKTON. Empyright, 1892, by the Author.

It was I c'clock on a bright October day and Mr. Nathan Rinkle had just sat down to din-ner, with Mrs. Nicely Lent on the other side of the table. The day was warm for the season, and Mr. Rinkle, having been very busy since carly morning, had a good appetite. But he had barely made one deep cut in the leg of mutton tefore bim, when the door opened and a beycame in with an old straw hat in his hand. He hesitated for a moment as if he thought he should make some anology for breaking in upon the sanctity of the dinner hour, and then he said:

Tye just come to tell you that I think the Revirent Ezekiel Crump is dyin', He's all 'Gracious!" exclaimed Mr. Rinkle, sudden-

ly rushing back his chair. "I must go out this minute, it's the heat. I didn't count on its bein so extra warm to-day. And with Oh dear ' exclaimed Mrs. Lent as she gazed at the table which she had arranged with so much care. "I suppose I might as well put these things by the fire to keep 'em There's no knowin' when he'll be back. I wish that boy Joe had kept away until dinner was over. But I suppose it couldn't be helped. It would never do to let the Beverend Lizekiel Crump die."

Nathan Binkie was a florist, and the Reverand Ezekiel Crump was a new and tine pelargonlum which had been originated by Mr. Rickle blazelf, and which he had named for the reverende ergyman who had married his ther and mother and baptized him. Mr. Binkle had often said that this good man's name would be given to the finest new flower he should ever grow; and as he did not believe should produce anything better than this

pelargonium, the name was given to it, Nathan was a tail, silte, muscular bachelor of about forty, industrious and devoted to his islen, and a respected member of society the country region in which he fixed. Mrs. Lent, a well-nurtured lady, whose age hovered round thirty-five, was the widow of Mr. Rinkie's former partner. The house belonged to Mr. Rinkle, and he, with Joshua Lent and his wife, had lived in it very pleasantly and profitabir five or six years. When Joshua died, three years ago this autumn. Nathan was not the man to turn his widow out of doors; so Mrs. Lent, who now owned a certain share in the business, remained as housekeeper and general domestic manager. And, thus far, the arrangement had been found pleasant and profitable to all parties concerned.

It was half an hour before Mr. Rinkle returned from the greenhouses, and as Mrs. Lent had seen him coming, the dinner was

that on the morrow Mr. Einkie would receive a first prize.

When Mr. Einkie, with his lantern, came in from the greenhouses that evening he told Mrs. Lent that he should go out several times during the night to see if everything was all right; and that he should leave very early in the morning for the town about ten miles sway, where the flower show was to be heid.

"I'm going to send Joe off with one wagon at tanight, and then, as soon as I can get off. I seal follow with the other wagon, which won't be hore than half full; so I'm goin' to stop at the Widow Sharp's and take along the phants safe sgot to show, for she hasn't any way of rettin them there herself."

"Do you mean," asked Nicely somewhat anticusty," that you are going before breakfast?"

oh yes," said Nathan; " and as I've got to at the Widow Sharp's any way, I'll break-

fastthere,"
And I suppose, of course, that you'll take
the key rand Ezekiel Crump with you?
"the yes, indeed," answered Nathan. "You
may be sure that I'll take charge of that may be sure that I'll take charge of that plant. That pelargonium is going to make a plant. That pelargonium is going to make a commotion at the show, I can tell you. I've gota lot of young plants of it, but I didn't expect? I have one in bloom this year. This one is a little spindlin', it is true, but he has got three sprays of flowers which are finer than anybody has ever yet seen on a pelargonium plant."

"I am so glad." said Mrs Lent. "that you are shie to exhibit it so much sooner than you expected to. That ought to be a good thing for you."

"Twe no doubt it will be," said Nathan, taking up his candle. "I'll leave contiles stein in charge of the greenhouses to morrow, and I'll tell him to come up to the house now and then to see if you want anything. I do il come to work at 7 o clock, and I'll see him before I go, Good night."

In the early dawn of the next morning the boy leasts. acommotion at the show, I can tell you. I've gotalor of young plants of it, but I didn't expected have one in bloom this year. This one is a little spindin, it is true, but he has got three sprays of flowers which are filter than anyoody has ever yet seen on a pelargonium plant."

"I'am so glad," said Mrs. Lent, "that you are she to exhibit it so much sooner than you expected to. That ought to be a good thing for you."

"I've no doubt it will be," said Nathan, taking up his candle. "I'll beave to titles bettin in charge of the greenhouses to morrow, and I'll tell him to come up to the house now and then to see if you want anything. Holl come to work at 7 o clock, and I'll see him before I go, Good right."

In the early dawn of the next morning the boy, Jos started for the show with the gray mare and a well-basided wagon, and at 7 Machan linkle bernan to no impatient for the coming of his chief assistant, to ditlet Stein, and Salihu was much sancy of the deverolet Position that tottlich was late, in coming to his work, and Salihu was much accept if that he should hampen to be so or this most important occasion.

After funing and fretting for at least a quarter of an hone as he waked up and down the principal greenhouse, gathering together the plants we have been considered that the stands of the other haves. So be hastly ran out to look for him, Ashan opened the down of the one, and had gone to work in some of the other houses. So be hastly ran out to look for him, Ashan opened the down of two other greenhouses, booked in and called but file man was not in either of them then out to look for him, ashan opened the down of two other greenhouses, booked in and called but file man was not in either of them the control of the other has so of the other has been dead to have a developed the proposition. The control of the other has been dead to have a dead

nough to draw water from it by of a bucket and rope. So now, as he take Gottlieb's thee. Nathan Rinkle of down to the edge of the cistern and

thought a good deal arrest to had not been high thought a good deal arrest to had not been high the also discovered, to his great surprise, that the water was very low and that it did not come by to the top of the rabber overshoes which he wore to product the well-blacked boots he had put on for the flower show. The season had been dry, and at little rain had the into the cistorn and it might be that the dillent of dipping wit a bucket in two or tree in the so water would explain to thick's regimbles in the matter of watering the bottlet's regimbles.

a's first framilee was to wad-around sof the cities and endeavor to find

at the top of his voice, hathan began

himself that it was useless. The door of the violet house was shut, and as it was at a considerable distance from any other building, it was not at all likely that he could make anybody hear him until Gottlieb, not finding his employer anywhere else, should come to that building to look for him.

Nathan's anger more than filled the cistern. He was not a swearing man, but if the dilatory Gottlieb could have heard the threats of his employer and could have seen the clenched fist he shook in the air, he would probably have been aircaid to go to his assistance. But as he could do nothing but wait, Nathan though he might as well wait as comfortably as possible, so he laid hold of the bucket, and turning it bottom nuward, sat down upon it. He drew his coat tails over his knees, and as his feet were rotweted by his overshoes, he was enabled to sit thus without getting wet.

It was not cold in the cistern, for the air was tempered by the greenhouse atmosphere allove, and although it was very damp Mr. Rinkle did not mind that. He had passed so many years of his life in moist glass houses, aroing from their heat out into the cold and dampness of the outer air without any change of clothing, that has skin had become tough and hardened, and he never thought of such a thing as taking cold. As he sat thus and considered his misfortunes he was still very angry, but he did not despair. Even if Gottlieb did not make his appearance until 8 o'clock it would still be time enough for him to stark with his flowers for the show; and so he sat and sat until, as his sleep had been very much iroken the night before, he fell into a doze. With his hands folded in his cap and his chin on his treast he sleep tas he had often done during the night watches in his greening.

While Mr. Binkle slept, Mrs. Nicely Lent was

done during the night watches in his greeniouses.

While Mr. Rinkle slept, Mrs. Nicely Lent was
at work in her kitchen. She was a pleasantjocking weman of a cheefful temperament,
and yet as she worked she heaved a little sigh.
Her breakfast was over and she was preparing the mines ment for the first mines pio of
the season, and was doing it with great care,
for Mr. Rinkle was fond of mines ties and
would gladly welcome this unexpected harbinger of the season of good eating.

More ver, it was Mrs. Lent's birthday, and
she saw no better way of celebrating it than
in making something good for Mr. Rinkle. It
was aulte certain that no one would think of
making anything good for her, in no way
was it a very toylad antiversary, for it is loneiter to be lonely on one 8 birthday than on any
other day. Even her little mand, Elizabeth,
was absent on a visit to her parents, and
Gottlish, whose own good nature oven if Mr.
Linkle had not told him to do so should have
promited him tocome to the house to see if he
were needed, had not made his appearative.

"I suppose," thought Mrs. Nicely, that Mr.
Rinkle had not told him to do so should have
promited him tocome to the house to see if he
were needed, had not made his appearative.

"I suppose," thought Mrs. Nicely, that Mr.
Rinkle had no told him to the house to see if he
were needed him, and it may be for she is
quite for ward enough for that sort of thing—
that she has persunded him to take her to the
lower show. And here there came a little
sigh. "But if he's done that, he's done it,"
she reflected, and there's no help for it. But
I shall put off dinner and won't have it till he
comes home. And then he shall have his
minee tie, nice and hot as he likes it."

She was turning over the minee meat with a
fork looking for such pleese of shed as might
be large enough to be ricked out. "Mines
pies do not agree with him very well," she said
to herself, "but he is very fond of them and I
will take out as much such as I can, and put in
a little noore brandy. I don't him ke some."

Her fork now brought up a large raisin, and she held it for a moment, thinking it might be better to cut it in half before patting it back. Mr. Rinkle was very fond of raisins, but to agree with him they ought to be thorought cooked. Nicely Lent was a woman who had

Lent had seen him coming, the dinner was again on the table when he entered.

"It wasn't as bad as Joe thought it was," he said as he took his seat at the table, "but it was bad enough. I think I have been too careful with that plant, a little too careful. I've been sparing with the water on it. I didn't want it to bloom too fast. I wanted the three strays I left on it to be absolutely perfect for the flower show to-morrow, and I was so busy this morning gettin' the other things ready I didn't look at the liev'rend Lezkiel, and as he was in a pretty het place for such a day, and too dry about the roots, he began to wit. But I think he is all right now. I've given him a good seakin' and put him in the shade, and he began to brighten up before I left him. I tell you. Mrs. Lent, that gave me a real shoes."

"As well it might," said the sympathetic Nievly.
That afternoon Mrs. Lent went out to the given houses to look at the wonderful new pelargonium. She found the reverend gentleman fully restored to health, strength, and the eye of man rested upon so grand and glorious a pelargonium. And furthermore, there could be no imaginable rease in todoubt that on the morrow Mr. Rinke would receive a first prize.

When Mr. Rinkie, with his lantern, came in from the greenhouses that evening he told Mrs. Lent that he should go out several times the dependent and then should go out several times the been found that a continue and that a continue to the proposed beauty, and she left quite convinced that never had the eye of man rested upon so grand and then eye of man rested upon so grand and the eye of man rested upon so grand and then eye of man rested upon so grand and the eye of man rested upon so grand and the eye of man rested upon so grand and the eye of man rested upon so grand and the eye of man rested upon so grand and the eye of man rested upon so grand and the eye of man rested upon so grand and the eye of man rested upon so grand and the eye of man rested upon so grand and the eye of man rested upon so grand and the

the state of the plant and then she returned to her work.

If Mrs. Lent had known that the day before had been flottlieb Stein's birthday, and that he was now in bed at home sleeping of the effects of a late supper, which, in honor of the anniversary, he had given to some chosen friends, she would have bastened to the greenhouses to see if they needed any attention in regard to warmth or venitation; and she would have discovered Mr. Rinkle's sorry plight, and her hands would have borne him a laider.

If Mr. Rinkle had known of Gottlieb's birth-If Mr. Rinkle had known of Gottlieb's birth-day supper and its consequences he would not so frequently and with such drowsy content have renewed his naps, thinking each time that he half opened his eyes that they had been closed but for a minute or two; and not imagining that his nature was relaying itself the several hours of sleep of which he had de-prived it the night before.

It was nearly noon when along a path which led from a handsome house uron a hillship, half a mile away, a young lady appeared walk-ing briskly toward the kinkle greenhouses. A more charming girl is seldom seen on a bright October morning, or indeed, upon any

right October morning, or, indeed, upon any

might have longation what was the degreat business of the other may be a some of the man was not in either of them and the other may be a some distance from them. Mr. Limite did not may be a something he did not want to see, and the found was that a number of the violat beds were very much in need of water.

"Confound it!" he ejaculated. "Here is a piece of forgetluiness. And while I'm a waiting for that fellow I might as well be freshening up these beds." And taking up a watering put he proceeded to the cistern.

This reservoir, supplied with rain water from the roof, was simply a wide hole in the central part of the house about nine feat deep. It had been dug in a bed of clar, and the suide of it had not yet been walled up or emented, for as Mr. Rinkle had found that was, for the present he had post. Possed limibility if. As the cletern was lei unswered no pump had been beds in it, and Gottlieb had found it may be a some of the other was a per unwerted no pump had been beds in it, and Gottlieb had found it may be a bucket and pine. So now, as he had to see a south to consider the control of the house about nine feat deep. It had been dug in a bed of clar, and the found that was for the trained was in fact can be a south of the late of the had not received with beautiful beasons, and the found it was the search of the control of the house about nine feat deep. It had been dug in a bed of clar, and the found that was for the trained was in fact the hid. So the tennis grounds to have not the found that the hid of the hid o

eminent among these was the leverend Eze-ked (runn).
Clara was a great lover of flowers. "What a perfectly beautiful relargonaum this is!" she exclaimed. "oh, if I could have one of those sprays! I wish I could have some one to attend to me."
I don't think Mr. Rinkle or any of his men are here, "said Leonard, after welking to the other end of the house and calling several times, "but here is some one who can attend to you. Let me cut off this spray and give it to you. I shall be so glad to do it, and he took a knife from his poolet.

"Oh, no, no." exclaimed Clara, stretching on her hand toward him. "You must not do it, am sure that is a rare flower, and very likely Mr. Rinkle intends to take it to the flower show at Marston, which ogens to day."

"Oh, no," said Leonard, cuite confidently.

"the na," said Leonard quite confidently.

"the na," said Leonard quite confidently.

"He has taken his flowers there long before this. I have no doubt he had a lot of this sort of pelargorium, more than he wanted, and he left this one."

Chra was examining the flower with great interest. "I next find out about this, sine said, "I never saw anything like it, Jact look at this spray with five great blossoms on it, each of them nearly three incless in diameter. And what exquisite blending of erlinson, pink, and cream. I wonder what it is earled." She stopped and read the name of the plant, which was written on a wooden latel stuck into the earth of the pot. "How uttert abstrd" she excluding, laughing. "This perfectly leaguing lining is named the lev-rend czekioi Crump." of Crump.
In ghed again, and Leonard laughed are. But he did not intend to waste his her. But he did not intend to waste his e in merriment; his mind was bent on sur-t work. Here was a chance to speak let he must not lose. Miss Knightley," he said. "If you will ac-pt from me this new and most beautiful

flower, it will give me a pleasure as new and beautiful as—
"Oh, you musta't do it," she cried. "Don't touch it, please. I must ask Mr. Rinkle about it, or his man, if he isn't here." And, without further words, she turned and left the house.

Leonard followed her, disappointed and annoyed. Miss Knightley's abrupt manner showed him that she did not wish to give him the opportunity to speak to her of the new and beautiful pleasure to which he had alluded. But he did not intend to give up the attempt, and he was quickly at her side.

"There is only one other place they can bo," she said; "they must be in the violet house."
Leonard did not wish to hurry to the violet house, or to any other house where they might expect to find people.

"Miss Knightley," said he, "suppose we go there by this broad walk which leads around the gardens. That foot path is very narrow, and may he wet."

"Oh, this leads straight to the house," said she, "and that one goes ever so far around." And she immediately took the narrow foot walk.

When following a lady along a path wide

walk.
When following a lady along a path wide enough for only one, and bordered by tall grass

lore intere ted.
Locard continued: "Clarn," he said, spenk-ur carnestly and rapidly. "may I love you? an I hope that you will love me? Oh, do not nink of geing nway. There is nothing in the orld so important as what I am saying to You."
Chara had looked toward the door, but whother she contemplated a retreat to it, or whether she glanced through it; glass ranes in the fear that some one might be approaching, leonard could not tell; but she saw no

whether she glanced through its glass panes in the fear that some one might be approaching, Leonard could not tell; but she saw no one and it was impossible to retreat, so tightly was her hand held. She turned her head from the door and bent her eyes on the ground.

"Oh. Chara," he exclaimed, "will you not speak to me? Will you not look at me?" She did not speak, but she looked up at him. That was enough.

"How very embarrassing," thought Mr. linkle, his ears expanding like opening calla lines, and his heart beating faster in his excited interest. "She must have agreed, for they surely are kissin. Yes, I can hear emand most likely huggin. Mercy on me! It's lucky they don't know I'm here. How dreadful it would be if they should even hear me breathe." And as this thought came to him he pressed his lips tightly together.

"Oh appy, happy day!" cried Leonard.

"Oh glorious world! Oh darling Clara—my own for ever."

"Dear me! Dear me!" thought Mr. Rinkle. own for ever."
"Dear me! Dear me?" thought Mr. Rinkle.
"How warmed up he is. And I don't wonder,
I don't wonder if he really is heldin' her in his
arms. Yes, he must be. That was another

kiss."
Some calla lilies are so large that it was impossible for Mr. Rinkle's ears to rival their dimensions, but they did their bost.
"And you really are mine-forever and always?" asked the ardent lover.
And into the violet perfumed air of the greenhouse there was breathed the one word.
"Yos."

And into the viole; periumen ar of the greenhouse there was breathed the one word. "Yes."

"There," thought Mr. Rinkle, "that is the first thing she has said. But, to be sure, he hasn't given her much chance. What! Again and again! I almost wish they would go away. This is getting very embarrassing. "Come, durling," said Leonard, "let us go. And nothing shall now prevent my giving that leveliest flower to the loveliest woman on earth. It shall be my first present to ner, and a lit one. She shall carry home my love, and with it the linest spray of blossoms from the Lev. Ezoklel Crump."

"Don't you do it," screamed Mr. Rinkle, springing to his feet. "Don't you touch it! I'm going to take that flower to the show. I wouldn't have it spelled for the world."

There was a scream from Clarn; a shout from Leonard. Then the young lady began to tremble, and sat down on the floor. Her lover assisted her to lean back against one of the supports of the voice beds, and then, seeing that she had not really fainted, he sprang to the open mouth of the cistern. There, a little

There was a scream from Chara. A shoul from Leonard. Then the young lady began to tremble, and sat down on the floor. Her lover assisted her to lean lack against one of the supports of the violet beds, and then, seeing that she had not really fainted, he sprang to the open mouth of the eistern. There, a little below the surface of the floor, he saw the paie face of Mr. Rinkle, who was standing on the bucket.

"I beg a thousand pardons, Mr. Hapfield." said the trembling florist, dismayed at what he had done, "and I vow to you that I wouldn't have heard a word you've been saying if that been possible for me to sink any desper into the bowers of the eigerth. There is a ladder at the flar end of the greenhouse, and if you il put that down here. Mr. Hapfield, H come up and fell you all about it.

Leonard was so anad no words in which to reply that he captured in the eigerth in the flories and were soon the florist was standing before him and Clara, who had now then to be feel.

This is very embarrassing," said Mr. Rinkle, his hanats clasped before him.

"Now, then," cried Leonard flereely. "none of that nonsense. I got you out to hear what you had to say about this contemptible sneaking piece of business."

Mr. Rinkle looked first at the angry young man and then at the paie Clara, and told everything just as it had happened. "You see, "said he, in conclusion," I kept so very quiet, think-in' to frighten Gottlieb, that you two began speakin, in a way that might be called conflidential, before I had time to let you know thore was some one class in the greenhouse; and then I didn't like to speak out because I knew it would embarrassed since the beginning of my days."

"Look here," exclaimed Leonard. "I want to know if you heard everything we said."

"Oh, no, indeed:" replied the good Nathan. "There were times when I couldn't help understandin the drift of the conversation, which secreted in a way to beston of whom the cistorn. But of course I couldn't help understanding the mount of the conversation, which secreted in

the flower show. I haven't my watch with me, but it must be a good deal after 8.0 clock."

"After 8." exclaimed Leonard, taking out his watch. "It is half-past twelve."

Mr. linkle stood aghast, "I must have slept the whole morning," he said wofully. "And that settles me at the flower show. The prizes were to be given out at noon to-day while things are fresh, and there is no use in my thinking of going there at this time. It is all up with me and my exhibition; at least the best part of it.

An idea suddenly struck the florist. "Stay here, please," he said. "I'll be back in a minute." And he ran out of the house.

In a short time he returned bearing in his hand the largest spray of blossoms from the flowerend freshell trimm. "It's no use lettin' em stay on till they re withered," he said. I'll let you, Mr. Hapfield, do what you wanted to do, and give your lady a flower that no other lady ever had before. If you knew how

THE RUSTLERS AT THE POLLS. LAST SPRING'S CATTLE WAR NEARLY

I'd worked and waited to get those blossoms you'd know the value of them."

This extinguished the last spark of resentment in Leonard's mind and Mr. Rinkle considerately absented himself during the presentation of the flowers.

It was evening; dinner was over, and Mr. Rinkle nushed back his chair with an air of great content. At his hasty luncheon which he are standing and in a perturbation of mind quite natural after what had happened, he had merely stated to Mrs. Lent that he had not gone to the flower show because Gottlieb had not come to take charge. But now, during the dinner, he had given Mrs. Lent a full account of his misadventure, alluding to his rescue from the cistern only by saving that Mr. Hapfield had happened to come into the violet house and had helped him out.

"That was a wonderfully good mince ple, Mrs. Lent," he remarked in his after dinner serenity. "There was nover a better."

"It I had only known," said Mrs. Lent, that while I was making it you were down in that dreadful hole, how fast I would have run to you.

Mr. Einkle crossed his legs and smilled. He

run to you."

Mr. Binkie crossed his legs and smiled. He was in a state of great good humor. "I know you would. Mrs. Lent. I know you would. But, after all, perhaps it's just as well you didn't

she, "and that one goes ever so far around."
And she immediately took the narrow foot with a first one of the control for only one, and bordered by tall grass a and lusshes, it is not often convenient to propose marriage to her, especially if she be walking very last. But Leonard followed hiss knightley resolutely. If it were necessary he was an allow to be the control followed hiss knightley when the had began to say to her.

I declare," said Miss Knightley, when she had began to say to her.
I declare, "said Miss Knightley, when she had began to say to her.
I declare," said Miss Knightley, when she had began to say to her.
I declare, "said Miss Knightley, when she had began to say to her.
I declare," said Miss Knightley, when she had began to say to her.
I declare, "said Miss Knightley, when she had began to say to her.
I declare," said Leonard, stepping close to her, that there is nobody here; for this gives me a chance to tell you.
I clara, that I love you; for, with all my heart and soul, I have long loves you, and I canned, stepping close to her, that there is nobody here; for this gives me a chance to tell you.
I have long loves you, and I canned, stepping close to her, that there is nobody in the long to the long of the yole thouse open, I had instant he was stirned up alone the proposed to the long of the yole thouse open, I had instant he was stirned up alone the proposed triple.

Mr. Rinkie awakened when he heard the door of the yole thouse open, I had instant he was stirned to the proposed to the proposed triple to the proposed triple to the proposed triple to the proposed triple to the proposed to her lock in the long that and the long that the proposed to her lock in the long that t

"After all," exclaimed the jubilant Nathan,
"the lieverent czekiel Crump brought me a
prize. He brought me you.

Ars. Lent looked at him inquiringly, "What
had be to do with it?" she asked.

He turned a beaming face toward her.
"Nicely," said he, "if them two had gone
away without knowing I was in the cistern,
and I d had to wait till Gottlieb came and got
me out, and that rascal didn't show himself
till 2 o'clock this afternoon there'd been a
flert, and, as he is a big fellow, and I'd been a
flert mad one. I wouldn't have been in aft
state this day to make love to anybody. But
it was the name of the Reverent Ezekiel
Crump that brought me boungin'to my feet,
and got me out of that hole while I was in
such a state of mind from hearin' what I heard
and thinking about what I imagined that I
was all one tingle of glowin' excitement from
my head that was in the air to my feet that
were in the water, and I kept thinkin' and
thinkin' about it till early in the afternoon I
made up my mind that as soon as I could get
the day's work done and dinner was over I
wouldn't wait any longer to declare my love,
just as your, limpleid couldn't wait any longer
to declare his.
"Nathan," said she, "did hearing those two
talk put this disposition into you?"
He threw one arm over the back of her chair.
"No, indeed, Nicely," he answered, "it only
brought it out"

The next Jay Mr. Rinkie went to the flower

No. indeed. Noely, he answered, it only brought it out.

The next day Mr. Rinkie went to the flower show, dressed in his best clothes and wearing in his buttonhole the remaining spray of blossoms from his new pelargonium. His brother florists stared with anazement at his adornment. "If you had brought yesterday the plant that bore that flower," one of them exclaimed, "you would have gained a first prize."

prize.
"Oh, I got prize enough," said Nathan, with an air of superiority to floricultural distinctions, "and the Reverend Ezeklel Crump must wait till next year for his turn."

A FINE PART OF AFRICA.

White Immigrants Can Live There. Several years ago Mr. Daniel J. Rankin had

the good fortune to discover the Chinde mouth of the Zambesi River. All explorers had said the usefulness of the Zambest for commerce was nearly destroyed by the fact that no vessel could get into it from the sea, and that navigation did not begin until the river had been ascended for thirty miles. Mr. Rankin. while exploring the delta, discovered that in the tangle of waterways a branch known as the Chinde was deep enough to admit light draught ocean vessels, and that when river steamers were introduced they could descend to the sea and take their cargoes directly esting and valuable discovery, and the effect of it is already seen; for there are now quite a number of steamers on the Zambesi, little towns are springing up on the river banks, and commercial enterprise is augmenting. While the Zambesi is the fourth largest river in Africa it has never before been utilized for steam navigation. Hereafter it promises to

the Zambesi is the fourth largest river in Africa it has never before been utilized for steam navigation. Hereafter it promises to be one of the most useful water highways in the Dark Continent.

Mr. liankin has recontly made extended explorations along the Zambesi and its great northern tributary, the Loangwa. He says the navigation of the Zambesi is entirely unimpedial from the sea to the Acababassa Falls, over 300 miles from the mouth, and that after a portage of alout thirty-five miles along the river bank there is another 300 miles of navigation on the Zambesi and its large northern tributary, the Loangwa.

The most important discoveries that have been made since I living stone's day in this region are the mineral deposits along the middle Zambesi and in the Loangwa hasin. Mr. liankin says there is an extensive and valuable region of coal formation along the north bank of the Zambesi covering an area of upward of 500 square miles. This coal helt extends both below and above the Fortuguese post at Tete. The coal is so near the river that the region may be very preditably developed. The deposits are within two orthree hours of the waterway. The steamers now plying on the river offer a good and ready market for a considerable output, and the coal can be carried to the coast steamers at the Chinde mouth. Mr. Lapierre has made a scientific report on the value of this coal. He says it will be perfectly suitable for the use of steamers for nearly 300 miles north of the Zambesi, and beyond the point of steam navigation a line of communication with the sea.

Mr. liankin has travelled extensively in the large deminunication of the dambesi, and he brings home remarkable reports. He says the elevation of the country is from 2000 to 8,000 feet. It is entirely free from morasses, and among his followers there were very tew cases of malarial sickness. The regards this country, as entirely fitted for white immigration. He asserts that the districts mineral wealth, its suitability for extensive agriculture, the free minera

The Telephone in Roumanta.

Fina the Bernit Fine Prins.

The two Roumanian cities, Galatz and Braila, on the Panube, were lately connected by telephone, which is, like the telegraph in that country, an institution of the State. Before its opening the ordinance of the Government for its use was published in the official gazette, the principal part of which is as follows:

"A person who wants to have intercourse with another by telephone is bound to notify that person beforehand by letter, telegraph, or otherwise."

A Mr. Kir Zaridi, in Braila, dealer in produce, was about to close a contract for a supply of barley. He desired, however, to learn beforehand the price of barley quoted at the Board of Trade in Galatz. For this purpose he went to the telephone office, and after paying the fee desired to get felephone connection with a Mr. Pastramaki. He correspondent in Galatz. "Very well: have you informed Mr. Pastramaki."

"What for? He is in Galatz, and the person to whom I want to telephone."

"That would not do, sir. Here is the ordinance. Before you can telephone to him you must inform him beforehand by letter, telegraph, or in any other way."

"Nonsense: Is the tovernment crazy? Maybe they ask me to travel to Galatz and inform him that on a certain day and hour he may be at the telephone office to receive a communication from me."

"Yes, that would do, too," the official said.

Mr. Kir Ziradi had to give up his barley deal.

A Local Issue For More Potent Than Tarif or Silver-It Turned the State Over to the Democracy, and Mixed Things Generally. CHEYENNE, Nov. 28.-It was more than na-

tional issues, more than a desire for a change, more than apathy of Republicans and activity of Democrats, more than an impulse to rebuke McKinleyism, more than a wish to sting and crush a party of opulence and insolence that brought about the peculiar political conditions now existing in this State.

Wyoming was admitted into the Union in 1800 with the distinct understanding that she

would take a place in the Republican column and remain there undisturbed until further orders. In September of that year an election was held. Every county was carried by the Republican State ticket. The majorities for Governor and Cabinet averaged 1,700. F. E. Warren, a gentleman by no means invulner alle when it comes to criticism of public record, was triumphantly seated in the Ex ecutive chair. He was subsequently canonized or gaivanized into a statesman by being elected to the United States Senate. There was a little protest at this way of monopolizing the choicest gifts of the gods, but Warren is a man of large parts and is well liked, and the croakers were husbon. He made, as near as the people here were able to judge, a very fair Senator. The other officers elected by the Republicans in 1890 were attentive enough to their duties to escape unkindly newspaper mention until a short time before the recent

campaign opened.
On the second election, with a vote of 18,000, carry consternation and wee into the Republican camp. The Harrison electors are saved by less than 300. The State tickets were in composition of equal merit. Osborne, Democrat, is elected Governor by a majority of 2,500. C. D. Clark, Republican, renominated for Congress, suffered a defeat that fairly chilled his gizzard. He was regarded as being In a position to withstand any assault, having a good record and tremendous personal popularity. The Legislature, with only forty-nine members and with eight hold-over Republican Senators, is now in the hands of the Democrats and l'opulists. Small fry Democratic leaders fairly revel in offices all over the State. It was a terrific storm to brew in two short years.

The "Invasion" was the locomotive that

ran down the Republican train, telescoped it, and dashed it into the ditch.

This issue became a thing of life last April. Early in that month an armed party of flityfour men raided into Johnson county. The avowed purpose of the mob was the extinction of the powerful organization of "rustlers," or cattle thieves, that had been making inroads cidentally to kill a few men who had, aside from stealing, made themselves obnoxious to the range element. Marked for destruction were some witnesses against a couple of members of the armed party had been summoned to plead to indict-

of members of the armed party who had been summoned to plead to indictments for murder. Aside from all abstract considerations of right and wrong, the invasion was a pretty cold-blooded conception. The mole was to shoot down the marked men as it found them. The hunted citizens were to be considered as past reformation, and were to have no quarter whatever. The thieves had been had for ten years, and the courts had been powerless for three years. There was some degree of justification for a change of venue to the court of Judge Lynch.

Twenty of the White Caps were paid mercenaries from Texas and the Indian Territory. Tom Smith, their tantaia, has since been killed in the southern country by a black desperade. Smith had seven notches on his six-shooter when he died. These fellows were getting \$5 a day and expenses and a bounty of \$50 on each man killed. The other members of the excedition were cattlemen and cowboys of Wyoming.

The history of the raid must be familiar to all. After the invaders had killed two men they were brought up standing by fied Angus's posse and held in a state of siego until relieved by the military. Angus's army was recruited from the people. It numbered nearly 600 men from four counties and was in service a week. The settlers were fired by the news that their territory had been invaded by an armed force, and believed; much were things about the mob than the known facts warranted. It was enough for these ranchmen and cowboys to know that the cattlemen were behind the movement and that it included some men who had tyrannized over them. The invaders are now at large on recognizances and are to have trials early in January.

Stupendous effort was made to keep the invasion question out of politics. No particular effort was made to manufacture an issue out of the circumstance. This was not necessary. The people naturally took sides. In the middle of the invasion and the invaders that it could searce by move. Superhuman exertion put the machine under way, but it was imperfect, minus a few whee

Steen the above the procedure of the process of the

One Way of Doing It.

He—That friend of yours is very familiar.
He elapsed me on the back and called me cold man.
She—So he told me. He said he had forgot-

TAKE

AYER'S Sarsaparilla at all seasons. In the Spring, it removes that tired feeling, cleanses and vitalizes the circulation, and prepares one to successfully contend with the debilitating effects of the heated term. In the Summer, it quickens the appetite, regulates the liver, and makes the weak strong. In the Autumn, it tones up the nerves and protects the system from malarial influences. In the Winter, it enriches the blood, and invigorates every organ and tissue of the body.

AYER'S

Sarsaparilla is the best all-the-year-round medicine you can find. It expels the poison of Scrofula and Catarrh and the acid that causes Rheumatism. It makes food nourishing, work pleasant, sleep refreshing. and life enjoyable. It is the Superior Medicine. Miss A. L. Collins, Dighton, Mass., writes: "For five years, I have used Ayer's Sarsaparilla each spring and fall and received wonderful benefit from it." George Gay, 70 Cross St., Centre Falls, R. I., says that for spring and summer complaints, he has found no other medicine equal to AYER'S

## SARSAPARILLA

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Sold by Druggists Everywhere. Has cured others, will cure you

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. STORIES OF THE OFFICE SEEKERS. That of Next May will be the Seventh in

New York's History-The Preceding Ones. If the act providing for a Constitutional Convention to meet in Albany next may is not again of about 2,000, the result is such as to amended or repealed, the people of New York will have the opportunity in the fall to pass on the work of the seventh Constitutional Convention held since New York ceased to be a British colony. Besides the complete Constitution framed by the Conventions, many amendments have been submitted to the people by the Legislature and through commissions appointed by the Governor. Some of these amendments have been adopted, and some of them have been defeated. The amendment conferring equal suffrage on colored persons with white persons came up several times. It was defeated in 1846 by a vote of three to one, and in 1800 by a vote of almost two to one. It was not adopted until after the civil war, and then only by a small majority.

The first Constitution of the State of New

York was drawn by the Fourth Provincial Congress, which met in July, 1776. This congress assumed the name of the Convention of Representatives of the State of New York. It was the first Legislature of the State as well as the Fourth Provincial Congress, and the first conventions of representatives. A committee, of which John Jay was the head, was appointed into the beef herds of the northern part of the to draw up a form of government. The committee reported on March 12, 1777. The report was discussed and on April 20, 1777, the first Constitution of the State of New York was adopted. The courts have decided that the origin of the State Government was the 20th of April, 1777.

The next Convention was the State Conven tion which met in 1788 to pass on the Federal Constitution. Before that New York was joined to the other States by the Confederation. The Convention met at Poughkeepsie in June, and sat a little over a month. By a vote of 30 to 27, seven not voting, it ratified the Federal Constitution. No State Constitution was drawn then, but the ratifying of the Federal Constitution necessarily altered the State Constitution, as under the State Constitution there were revenue laws, custom officers, Admiralty Court, and Commissioners of Indian

Trea the Sas Leaviers Laws Report.

The Pale Alto students are forming a boat crew with which they expect to win additional laurels. An order will soon be sent East for an eight-our shell, and then the crew will begin regular tractice. The reservoir adjoining the university, over which a straight match can be rowed, will be used for practising purposes, and possify some day an intercollegiate shell race will be rowed over the water. The majority of the students have retrained from drinking the water for months, and they do not think rowing practice in it will injure it.

A Determined Woman Sensible Answers to Foolish Questions.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 .- Applications are already beginning to pour into the Treasury Department for offices under the coming Administration. Many people evidently imagine that Mr. Cleveland is now installed at the White House. The impudence exhibited by some of these seekers for places is astonishing. Only the other day an exceptionally importunate one was on the point of striking the private secretary of the Secretary of the Treasury with a paper weight, because that official refused to devote his entire attention to forwarding the claims of the petitioner. But the Appointment Clerk of the Treasury has the worst of it. A fortnight ago a woman came into his office and said: "I have come for a place, and I mean to have it. I shan't leave

"I regret to say that there is no vacancy. madam," replied Gen. McCauley.
"Then discharge somebody and make a vanney," suggested the visitor.

"I can hardly do that," said the General. "Then I will stay here and starve," declared "All right, madam," assented the General,

"Sit down and starve comfortably."

But she would not accept the invitation. She preferred to go to the antercom of the Secre-tary of the Treasury, where she drove the officlais nearly distracted. Finally they appealed to the Appointment Clerk, and he tried to persimple her to leave. "I prefer to starve right

No, "she insisted here."

"But, madam," protested Gen. McCauley, "you can starve just as well in my room, and there is a pleasant corner which you can have all to yourself, "I choose to starve on this spot," responded, the woman with emphasis. She has so far the woman with emphasis. "I choose to starve on this spot," responded the woman with emphasis. She has so far kept her word as to spend every day since then, from P to 4, in the antercoom to the great discomfort of the cierks.

The women who apply for places are very hard to get rided. When informed that there is no vacancy they usually say. "The Secretary can always make one more place." Many of them make most humble and pathetic appeals, saying: "For pity's sake, let me scrub the floors or do anything by which I may earn my bread." Yet these same individuals, after securing situations and occupying them for two or three days, are pretty sure to demand three things—promotion is ave of absence, and

A modest and small-sized man occupied a seat on an electric car. A robust woman, who come to a straight of the could be a straight of the could stand it no longer. Finally he said to her:

Madam. I would cheerfully give up my place to rou, but him my judgment you would not be able to sid where if an eliting."

She said it was all right, and cheerfully waited till somebody got up and made it possible for the slim man to move along.